

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 01684 021024Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

CU-02 IO-11 /070 W

----- 007374

R 020911Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1778

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: TENSION HIGH AT UNIVERSITY OF PHILIPPINES

REF: (A) A-18 JANUARY 16, 1976; (B) MANILA 1448, (C) MANILA 1298

BEGIN SUMMARY: TENSION REMAINS HIGH AT UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP) FOLLOWING RECENT ARREST OF A NUMBER OF STUDENT LEADERS. BOYCOTT OF CLASSES MAY BE IN THE OFFING IF GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS HARD-LINE ON FREEDOM OF PRESS ISSUE WHICH HAS SPARKED CURRENT WAVE OF UNREST (SEE REF B).
END SUMMARY.

1. ABOUT 17 OR 18 PERSONS FROM UP COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY MILITARY OVER PAST TWO WEEKS AND ARE STILL BEING DETAINED. TWO ARE FACULTY MEMBERS ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT, CHEMISTRY PROFESSORS ROGER POSADAS AND ESTHER GARCIA ALBANO (SEE REF C). REMAINDER ARE STUDENTS, INCLUDING CORE OF LEGITIMATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP, TO WIT:

- ABRAHAM "DITTO" SARMIENTO, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF CAMPUS

- FIDES LIM, MANAGING EDITOR OF COLLEGIAN;

- DIWA GUINIGUNDA, CHAIRMAN OF UP STUDENT CONFERENCE

(REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY CONVENED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO UP PRESIDENT) AND PAST EDITOR OF COLEGIAN;

- ALEXANDER MAGNO, VICE-PRESIDENT OF STUDENT CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 01684 021024Z

AND PAST ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF COLLEGIAN;

-MARIVERE ADEA, SECRETARY OF STUDENT CONFERENCE;
-MARVIE MARAMAG, MEMBER OF STUDENT CONFERENCE AND UP
YMCA PRESIDENT;
- OLIVER JUMAWA-AS (PHONETIC), CHAIRMAN OF CONCOMSA,
STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP ORGANIZED BY UP ADMINISTRATION
FOLLOWING 1972 ABOLITION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT.

3. REACING TO ARRESTS, STUDENTS ATTEMPTED TOORGANIZE
BOYCOTT OF CLASSES WEEK OF JANUARY 26-30. FIRST THREE
DAYS BOYCOTT WAS BADLY ORGANIZED AND CLASS ATTENDANCE WAS
NORMAL. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, BOYCOTT COINCIDED WITH PRAYER
MEETING AT UP ECUMENICAL CATHEDRAL FOR DETAINEES AND WAS
SLIGHTLY MORE SUCCESSFUL. A FEW STUDENTS, PROBABLY LESS
THAN 10 PERCENT OF STUDENT BODY, STAYED AWAY FROM CLASSES AND
APPROXIMATELY 100 STUDENTS STAGED SIT-IN AT ONE CLASSROOMS
BUILDING. FOLLOWING DAY CLASS ATTENDANCE RETURNED TO NORMAL.

4. ON JANUARY 31, UP PRESIDENT O.D. CORPUZ ATTENDED REGU-
LARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL (COMPOSED OF
ALL FACULTY MEMBERS WITH RANK OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND
ABOVE). MEETING WAS CONCERNED MOSTLY WITH ADMINI-
STRATIVE DETAILS, BUT TOWARD THE END, CORPUZ WAS ASKED
ABOUT STUDENT ARRESTS. CORPUZ REPLIED THAT IN HIS VIEW
STUDENTS ENGAGED IN PROTEST MOVEMENTS MUST BE PREPARED TO
BEAR CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS. HE SAID UNIVERSITY
COULD DO LITTLE OFFICIALLY TO HELP THE STUDENTS. CORPUZ
ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER PRIVATELY
WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BELIEVED SARMIENTO, AT
LEASE WOULD BE RELEASED IN ABOUT A WEEK.

5. IN ADDITION TO SARMIENTO AND LIM, TWO OTHER COLLEGIAN
STAFFERS ARE OUT OF CIRCULATION. ONE RESIGNED AT THE
BEHEST OF HER PARENTS, ANOTHER REPORTEDLY "WENT UNDER-
GROUND." HOWEVER, DESPITE ONE REPORT THAT COLLEGIAN
OFFICES ARE "PADLOCKED," THERE IS AS YET NO INDICATION
THAT CAMPUS NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY BANNED. BOARD
OF JUDGES OF COLLEGIAN, MADE UP OF FIVE FACUTLY MEMBERS,
MET WITH UP VICE PRESIDENT SORIANO JANUARY 28 AND SUPPORTED
COLLEGIAN STAFF. THEY RECOMMENDED THAT PAPER CONTINUE
PUBLICATION AND THAT INTERIM EDITOR BE SELECTED BY FACULTY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 01684 021024Z

ADVISOR TO CARRY ON DURING "TEMPORARY INCAPACITATION" OF
SARMIENTO. MEMBER OF BOARD OF JUDGES INFORMED EMBOFF THAT
SORIANO APPROVED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS. SAME SOURCE SAID
SKELTON COLLEGIAN STAFF WILL ATTEMPT TO GET AN ISSUE
OUT THIS WEEK, IF THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED TO DO SO, THEY
WILL PROBABLY PRINT COLLEGIAN IN MIMEOGRAPHED FORM, THE
USUAL MENAS OF DISTRIBUTING DISSIDENT MATERIAL AT UP.

6. COMMENT: IF THE COLLEGIAN DOES NOT APPEAR AND IF SARMIENTO AND HIS COMPANIS ARE NOT RELEASED, THERE WILL ALMOST SURELY BE FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO ORGANIZE BOYCOTT OF CLASSES. PRESENT MOOD IS SUCH THAT MAJORITY OF UP STUDENTS SEEM INCLINED TO OBSERVE BOYCOTT, WHICH, OF VARIOUS MEANS OF PROTEST AT STUDENTS' DISPOSAL, INVOLVES THE LEAST PERSONAL RISK.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, ARRESTS, STUDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA01684
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-0758
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760292/aaaadcrm.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 1448, 76 MANILA 1298
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENSION HIGH AT UNIVERSITY OF PHILIPPINES
TAGS: PINT, PINS, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006